

From: [Greenberg, Marc](#)
To: [Crossland, Ronnie](#)
Subject: FW: For Review: First Draft of Water Release
Date: Sunday, September 3, 2017 4:16:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Should have cc'd you on this as FYI. Same message shared with EoCs. You were on that one. Thanks for working this all out with me.

Marc S. Greenberg, Ph.D.
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From: Greenberg, Marc
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Valdes, Dennisses <Valdes.Dennisses@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>
Cc: Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; Clark, Becki <Clark.Becki@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

All,

The schedule given earlier today has been modified. The changes are: 1) TAGA bus and technical team are now scheduled to arrive in Houston on Monday, Sep 4; and 2) TAGA could be operational as early as Tuesday Sep 5. We are communicating this information with the HQ- and R6-EoCs now.

Thank you,
Marc

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From: Greenberg, Marc

Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 11:25 AM

To: Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Valdes, Dennisses
<Valdes.Dennisses@epa.gov>; Woolford, James <Woolford.James@epa.gov>; Stalcup, Dana
<Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>

Cc: Irizarry, Gilberto <Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov>; Clark, Becki <Clark.Beki@epa.gov>; Breen, Barry
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All,

The Region began inquiring about TAGA availability last Tuesday and we were able to have a discussion with the RICT on Wednesday to understand their needs and scope. Travel times from RTP and LV were understood to be 3 and 4 days, respectively, as the asset needs to be driven by a CDL driver. The RTP TAGA was selected as the vehicle to be sent as soon as possible. There were some repairs to the RTP TAGA (including replacement of an air conditioner) that were completed on Friday and the bus left for the incident on Saturday. Here is the schedule that we established on Wednesday. That schedule has not changed:

SAT 9/2 - MON 9/4: TAGA bus is en route now. Scheduled to arrive in San Antonio by later on Monday (9/4).

TUES 9/5: The TAGA technical experts, including ERT Dave Mickunas, will all be assembled on Tuesday (9/5) in San Antonio. While in San Antonio, they will check out the TAGA instruments and get it ready for use.

WED 9/6: On Wednesday (9/6) morning the TAGA will depart San Antonio for the Houston lab to receive assignments. Dave Mickunas will be in contact with the POC.

This information is also being shared with the HQ EoC. We have worked as quickly as possible to get the Region the resource to meet their needs and we are looking forward to further supporting the response. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Dee if there are any questions.

Marc

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From: Cheatham, Reggie
Sent: Sunday, September 3, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Greenberg, Marc; Valdes, Dennisses; Woolford, James; Stalcup, Dana
Cc: Irizarry, Gilberto; Clark, Becki; Breen, Barry
Subject: FW: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

See Sam's note...I am not aware of the mechanical problem...can you all update the HQ EOC.

Thanks

Reggie Cheatham, Director
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Doris Williams, Executive Assistant
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From: Coleman, Sam
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 10:39 AM
To: Breen, Barry <Breen.Barry@epa.gov>
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

We have been waiting on TAGA for several days. Mary's note below is the latest. What can be done to speed this up?

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From: Peterson, Mary
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 9:37 AM
To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>
Cc: Webster, Susan <webster.susan@epa.gov>; Crossland, Ronnie <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>
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We are told that it experienced a mechanical problem and is expected to be in Houston on Wednesday. I will see if there is anything we can do to speed that up.

Mary P. Peterson, Director

Superfund Division

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Cleaning Up & Restoring the Heartland

Under the foundational principles of integrity, sound science, & rule of law,
we value: *Accountability* ★ *Teamwork* ★ *Service* ★ *Respect*

From: Coleman, Sam
Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 9:21 AM
To: Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>
Cc: Webster, Susan <webster.susan@epa.gov>; Crossland, Ronnie <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>
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Where is the TAGA?

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Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>
Cc: Webster, Susan <webster.susan@epa.gov>; Crossland, Ronnie <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

Working on this as well...more at noon

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 3, 2017, at 2:10 AM, Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov> wrote:

Please note the Residential well discussion: Can we set some locations where people can bring samples from wells that can be tested?

We will need several!

Also let me know if we captured the operational plans correctly.

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From: Coleman, Sam

Sent: Sunday, September 03, 2017 2:07 AM

To: Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto: Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto: gray.david@epa.gov)>; Forsgren, Lee <[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov](mailto: Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov)>; Drinkard, Andrea <[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto: Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto: Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Greenwalt, Sarah <[greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov](mailto: greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov)>; Wagner, Kenneth <[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto: wagner.kenneth@epa.gov)>

Cc: Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto: jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>

Subject: RE: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

A couple of situational **changes:**

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

- **Drinking Water:** Of the approximately **4512** drinking water systems in the affected area, 1757 systems are fully operational, 98 are partially operational, with a “boil water” notice, and 49 continue to have outages. The agencies are contacting 189 systems to gather updated information of their status. **Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.** Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.
 - **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately **2467** wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the **Texas Military Department**, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston’s unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. **Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.**
-

- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested. **NOTE:** **We need to start this process asap**
- **Critical Water Infrastructure:** The agencies are continuing to work closely with the dams. The larger dams are full in many cases, and may be releasing water, the structures are secure at this time. **NOTE:** **USACE is responsible for the two large dams that are getting a lot of Media attention Addicks, and Barker**
- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

- **Superfund Sites:** EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found [here](#).
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm. Due to quick action and proper preparation by State and local authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.
- **Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and TCEQ are coordinating closely with Harris County Officials along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local public safety officials. Due to the increased risk of unpredictable fires at the remaining trailers, experts on the ground decided that the best course of action was to ignite a controlled fire for the remaining trailers on Saturday evening, September 2nd. However, at approximately this approach was suspended because the trailers began to smolder and are expected to spontaneously ignite.

As a result of initial chemical fires while the facility was flooded, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. In addition, EPA will maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground.

The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

Sorry this is so late. Had to sleep.

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From: Bowman, Liz
Sent: Saturday, September 02, 2017 8:48 PM
To: Coleman, Sam <Coleman.Sam@epa.gov>; Ryan Vise <Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Greenwalt, Sarah <greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov>; Wagner, Kenneth <wagner.kenneth@epa.gov>
Cc: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: For Review: First Draft of Water Release

Below, please find a first draft of a release on the status of water systems in the Harvey affected area. I highlighted the areas where I need some help with numbers. Please review this and let me know if you have thoughts or edits. This is just a first draft and I am a little tired, so edits are welcome. **The goal is to get this out first thing tomorrow morning.**
Thank you – Liz

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

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affected area, 1757 systems are fully operational, 98 are partially operational, with a “boil water” notice, and 49 continue to have outages. The agencies are contacting 189 systems to gather updated information of their status. Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.

- **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 794 of approximately XXX wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston’s unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing.
- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling and monitoring residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to provide updates to the community on the status of water from residential well water.
- **Critical Water Infrastructure:** The agencies are continuing to work closely with the dams; some of the smaller dam systems have failed; while all the large water dams are full and may be releasing water, the structures seem to be secure at this time.
- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling is focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters may contain many hazards, including bacteria and other disease agents. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding boil water notices, swimming advisories, or other safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

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proper preparation by local authorities, all the station ambient air quality monitors in the network from south of Corpus Christi, to Belmont, and all the impacted areas were protected before the storm. Since then, local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week.

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For additional information from TCEQ, please visit:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes>

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